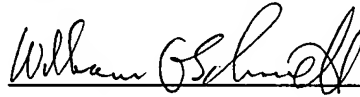


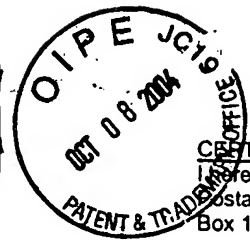
Should the above request be denied, the Applicants would respectfully petition to correct the priority claim in the subject application. This conditional petition is being submitted prior to 16 months from June 9, 2003, the filing date of the provisional application Serial No. 60/477,148, the application whose number was inadvertently incorrectly noted in paragraph [0001] on page 1, line 7 of the subject application as filed. Should the Commissioner deem any fees associated with this communication, the Commissioner is authorized to charge these fees to Deposit Account No. 02-0429 (194-30871-US).

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "William E. Schmidt", is written over a horizontal line.

Date: October 5, 2004

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CERTIFICATE OF MAILING UNDER 37 CFR 1.8(a)

I hereby certify that this correspondence, along with any referred to as enclosed or attached, is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as First Class Mail, postage prepaid, in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Mail Stop: OIPE, P.O. Box 1450, Alexandria, VA 22313-1450, on this 31st day of March, 2004.

Lee Brevard
Lee Brevard

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

APPLICANT:

Vladimir Jovancicevic et al.

SERIAL NO.: 10/720,655

FILED: November 24, 2003

**TITLE: Aluminum Carboxylate Drag
Reducers for Hydrocarbon Emulsions**

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ATTY DOCKET NO: 194-30871-US

Mail Stop: OIPE
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PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

Dear Sir:

Applicants respectfully request the following amendment to the application be entered.

Amendments to the Specification begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 3 of this paper.